

**Review of Progress Implementation Report for
NIOSH Construction Program**

Submitted by Board of Scientific Counselors

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BSC Working Group Members

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Construction Score Sheet

Directions: For each recommendation listed below, please circle a score for each scoring element and provide a brief justification for the assignment of that score. The work group may provide scores in .5 increments where they deem appropriate. If the group chooses to do that, please put a .5 next to the corresponding number and circle that number.

Recommendations In Progress:

Recommendation #1

Efforts to influence practice based on research (“research-to-practice” or r2p) efforts should involve individuals with training or with the experience and skills to create strategic diffusion and social marketing plans for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health research and evaluate such plans’ effectiveness.

Relevance: 1 2 3 4 5 – **SCORE: 5**

Brief Justification:

This recommendation should be attended to well as new individuals with relevant skills for “research-to-practice” have been hired.

Sustainability: 1 2 3 4 5 – **SCORE: 4**

Brief Justification:

It appears that NIOSH may need more resources to follow-up with these initiatives to see what their impact has been on practices and injury and illness outcomes. Over time and with the addition of new personnel, it is expected that changes in practice will be affected and long-time with integration.

Progress: 1 2 3 4 5 – **SCORE: 4**

Brief Justification:

There is lack of evidence that, beyond counting various measures of dissemination and hits, the r2p has led to changes in practices and changes in injuries or illnesses. It is recommended that more diverse evaluation metrics be developed to capture changes.

Potential Impact: 1 2 3 4 5 – **SCORE: 5**

Brief Justification:

The changes made have already begun to bear fruit.

Recommendation #2

Consideration should be given to having the majority of research-to-practice efforts of the Construction Research Program conducted through the National Construction Center.

Relevance: 1 2 3 4 5 – **SCORE: 5**

Brief Justification:

The r2p efforts appear to merit expansion and this response does that. There has been substantial use of the Center and it is anticipated that this will continue with relevant outcomes.

Sustainability: 1 2 3 4 5 – **SCORE: 5**

Brief Justification:

Although nothing is guaranteed about the future, the steps appear to be well-integrated into the programs that have already been established

Progress: 1 2 3 4 5 – **SCORE: 5**

Brief Justification:

Major steps have been taken to implement this recommendation.

Potential Impact: 1 2 3 4 5 – **SCORE: 4**

Brief Justification:

As reflected in the other categories for Recommendation #2, the emphasis on the use of the Center has been implemented quite well. One element that should be strengthened is the strategic perspective of the r2p program. The program focuses on cases where substantial evidence has accumulated about the merits of the practice. What are the prospects for additional cases beyond nail gun safety? Is there a bank of other practices that are ready for similar dissemination? What are the expectations for the program? Are there ways that its potential can be realized more quickly or thoroughly?

Recommendation #5

The National Construction Center should continue to be used as an important component in the Construction Research Program.

Relevance: 1 2 3 4 5 – **SCORE: 5**

Brief Justification:

The Center is an integral part of the Construction Research Program and it is anticipated that this will continue into the future. Excellent partnerships have been established.

Sustainability: 1 2 3 4 5 – **SCORE: 5**

Brief Justification:

Strategies for sustainability appear to be well-integrated into the programs that have already been established.

Progress: 1 2 3 4 5 – **SCORE: 5**

Brief Justification:

Implementation this recommendation has been achieved.

Potential Impact: 1 2 3 4 5 – **SCORE: 4**

Brief Justification:

The strategic perspective of the r2p program should be strengthened . This would include a focus on developing a cadre of practice areas that can be emphasized for development of dissemination messages. A timetable for strategic implementation should be considered.

Recommendation #6

The Program should establish a closer connection with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and other regulatory or consensus standards organizations to help ensure that the Program's research is applied effectively in rule-making efforts.

Relevance: 1 2 3 4 5 – **SCORE: 5**

Brief Justification:

We think that the objective here is important. Given OSHA's key role in prevention, better integration of research and analysis with policymaking would move the idea of r2p into the realm of public policy.

Sustainability: 1 2 3 4 5 – **SCORE: 4.5**

Brief Justification:

Several factors impede better use of NIOSH resources to assist OSHA. They are in different cabinet-level agencies and they have different goals and political circumstances. In addition, there are the usual agency concerns about autonomy. Figuring out how to build a more sustainable partnership remains a difficult task.

Progress: 1 2 3 4 5 – **SCORE: 3.5**

Brief Justification:

Although it appears that there have been more meetings with OSHA staff, we don't see much more integration of effort with respect to core functions of OSHA. Of course, progress here depends upon the actions of OSHA at least as much as it depends on actions of NIOSH.

Potential Impact: 1 2 3 4 5 – **SCORE: 5**

Brief Justification:

Fuller cooperation could, we believe, lead to substantial impacts.

Recommendations Completed:

Recommendation #4

The Construction Program Coordinator and the Construction Program Manager should both be devoted full-time to the Construction Research Program.

Achievement: 1 2 3 4 5 – **SCORE: 5**

Brief Justification:

This has been accomplished.

Sustainability: 1 2 3 4 5 – **SCORE: 5**

Brief Justification:

It appears that this can be sustainable assuming resources are available.

Impact: 1 2 3 4 5 – **SCORE: 5**

Brief Justification:

Although it is hard to track cause and effect, it appears that the changes have led to greater focus on construction issues within NIOSH.